

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-4 Canceled.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~extruding~~ meltblowing a first type of liquid material into a first plurality of strands and a second type of liquid material into a second plurality of strands and combining the first and second pluralities of strands into a plurality of multi-component filaments, comprising:

a die tip including an external surface, a first liquid input configured to communicate with a supply of the first type of liquid material and a second liquid input configured to communicate with a supply of the second type of liquid material;

a ~~plurality~~ linear array of first liquid outlets each for extruding a corresponding plurality of first strands;

a ~~plurality~~ linear array of second liquid outlets each for extruding a corresponding plurality of second strands, each second outlet ~~positioned adjacent to~~ tangentially meeting with a corresponding one of said first liquid outlets at said external surface;

a plurality of first liquid passages, each communicating between said first liquid input and a selected one of said first liquid outlets;

a plurality of second liquid passages, each communicating between said second liquid input and a selected one of said second liquid outlets, said first and second liquid passages respectively converging at said first and second liquid outlets for respectively extruding the pluralities of first and second strands, the first and second strands combining together immediately after extrusion to form the plurality of multi-component filaments having a cross-sectional configuration combining the first and second types of liquid material; and

air passages positioned on opposite sides of said first and second liquid outlets and configured to direct process air to impinge the multi-component filaments.

Claims 6-9 Canceled.

10. (New) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:

a manifold assembly comprising first and second liquid passages, said first liquid passage adapted to communicate between the supply of the first type of liquid material and said first liquid input of said die tip, said second liquid passage adapted to communicate between the supply of the second type of liquid material and said second liquid input of said die tip, said manifold assembly further comprising first and second heating devices positioned proximate to said first and second liquid passages, said first heating device adapted to maintain the supply of the first liquid material at a first predetermined temperature and said second

heating device adapted to maintain the supply of the second liquid material at a second predetermined temperature.

11. (New) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said die tip further comprises:

a transfer block including said first and second liquid inputs and portions of said first and second liquid passages; and

a die tip block including said first and second liquid outlets and other portions of said first and second liquid passages.